

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 00541 072054Z

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 INR-07 /021 W
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R 071915Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO ONR ARLINGTON VA
SECSTATE WASHDC 7486

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 0541

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, SENV, TD

SUBJ: CLEARANCE FOR ONR-SPONSORED ACOUSTICAL
RESEARCH

REF: ONR N09690 (040219Z MAR 75)

1. REFERENCE REPORTS ONR-SPONSORED RESEARCH TO BE
CONDUCTED BY RICHARD HECHT OF UNDERWATER SYSTEMS,
INC., FROM AMOCO TRINIDAD OFF-SHORE OIL RIGS.

2. MR. HECHT ARRIVED IN TRINIDAD MARCH 2 AND MESSAGE
INFORMING US OF HIS STATUS ARRIVED MARCH 4. DESPITE
OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN LAST-MINUTE CLEARANCES FOR
HIM TO PERFORM DESIRED RESEARCH, NO CLEARANCE COULD BE
OBTAINED PRIOR TO MARCH 6 TERMINATION OF SPECIFIC
DRILLING OPERATIONS HE PROPOSED TO MONITOR. MR. HECHT
THUS DEPARTED TRINIDAD ON THAT DATE.

3. WISH TO CALL ATTENTION OF DEPARTMENT AND ONR TO
REQUIREMENT FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION AND GOTT CLEARANCE
OF PROPOSED GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OF
THIS TYPE. GOTT IS ONE OF STATES LEADING CAMPAIGN
IN LAW OF SEA CONFERENCE TO REQUIRE PERMISSION
OF CONTIGUOUS STATE FOR SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS
CARRIED OUT IN 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. THEY ARE THUS
SENSITIVE TO ANY APPARENT ATTEMPT TO CONDUCT SUCH
RESEARCH WITHOUT ADVANCE COORDINATION. PROBLEM FOR
US COMPOUNDED BY FACT THAT HECHT HAD TO OPERATE FROM
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TRINIDAD ITSELF AND THEREFORE WE COULD NOT EASILY PLEAD

EVEN OUR POSITION THAT CONTIGUOUS STATE'S PERMISSION NOT REQUIRED BEYOND LIMITS OF TERRITORIAL WATERS. ISSUE WAS ALSO SENSITIVE BECAUSE IT AROSE ONLY DAYS AFTER AMOCO HAD GOTTEN INTO TROUBLE FOR NOT GETTING ADEQUATE CLEARANCES FOR SOME PERSONNEL AND FLOATING EQUIPMENT BEING USED IN PIPELINE LAYING OPERATIONS OFF EAST COAST.

4. INCIDENTALLY, IT APPEARS THAT COORDINATION BETWEEN ONR CONTRACTOR AND US OIL COMPANIES WAS VERY POOR. UNDERWATER SYSTEMS, INC. APPARENTLY MADE ARRANGEMENTS WITH AMOCO (WHICH WAS VERY RELUCTANT TO AGREE) BY LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT TEXACO COMPLETELY REFUSED TO COOPERATE AND AMOCO NOW IS CONCERNED THAT GOTT MAY SUSPECT SOME SORT OF CLANDESTINE RESEARCH WAS ATTEMPTED, DUE TO LACK OF INFORMATION ORIGINALLY AVAILABLE TO AMOCO AND TO EMBASSY. (GOTT FIRST BELIEVED THAT MR. HECHT WAS EMPLOYED BY AMOCO.)

5. SHOULD ONR WISH TO REINSTATE PROPOSED ACOUSTIC RESEARCH IN TRINIDAD'S OFFSHORE OILFIELDS, WE BELIVE THERE IS REASONABLY GOOD CHANCE TO OBTAINING OGTT PERMISSION IF THIS IS SOUGHT ADEQUATELY IN ADVANCE WITH CLEAR DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT. UNFORTUNATELY, ABSENCE OF SUCH ADVANCE PREPARATION PREVENTED SUCCESS THIS TIME.

MILLER

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